

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 11-23 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Baugh et al. 5,335,737. Applicant would like to point out that what is disclosed in Baugh et al. is in fact a whipstock and not a multilateral reference point at all. Moreover, a whipstock does not have an orientation profile on it but merely has a whip face which as known to one of ordinary skill in the art is distinct. Nevertheless, applicant has added new claim 29 on which all of the claims have become dependent which claim requires a wall thickness of the tubular sleeve selected to minimize restriction of a borehole in which the sleeve is installable. Clearly, the device relied upon by the Examiner does not minimize restriction of the borehole as that device is a whipstock and necessarily requires that it substantially occlude the borehole in order to function for its intended purpose of kicking a string off into a lateral borehole. Support for the amendment exists throughout the application but one must look no further than the fourth line of the summary of the application to find a direct statement and support thereof. These amendments address and overcome the rejection over 35 U.S.C. §102(b) withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner has any queries regarding the instantly submitted Amendment, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to this Response, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests that such fees be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 02-0429 maintained by Applicants' assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

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